

time was president of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, was aboard the *Malaspina* for its maiden voyage to Petersburg. In its first year of service, the Marine Highway added the Taku and Matanuska ferries, which broadened service from Ketchikan to Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangell and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. During that inaugural year the fleet moved more than 15,000 vehicles and 80,000 passengers.

In 2005, I attended the designation ceremony to name the Marine Highway as a National Scenic Byway—All American Road, the highest recognition that can be received under the Byways Program. This designation recognized that for Southeast Alaska, the ferry system is a piece of history, a tourist attraction, and a way of life. It is the primary transportation link for many of the 30 communities it serves that populates Alaska's 35,000 miles from Bellingham, WA, up the Inside Passage, across the Gulf of Alaska and out along the 1,000 mile stretch of the Aleutian Chain to the Bering Sea. It also enables Juneau to serve as the only United States capital city not accessible by road.

The Marine Highway directly affects our school system in Southeast Alaska. Over 15 rural schools are given an economically feasible way to travel so that students may participate in competitive academic and sporting events. This allows young Alaskans opportunities that would otherwise be impossible, providing the chance to interact and identify with communities, families and other students from across the State.

To commemorate this special occasion, this summer the M/V *Malaspina* will sail a special voyage inspired by the 1963 inaugural sailing. The celebration will include community events across Southeast Alaska showcasing the unique culture and heritage of each community.

Much like the blue and gold of Alaska's state flag, the blue and gold ships on the Alaska Marine Highway System embody the spirit and fortitude of Alaskans. What was once called one of the most important and permanent achievements for Alaska since statehood, the Marine Highway has grown alongside the people it serves to improve life in Alaska. We share pride for our unique State, and pride in the Alaska Marine Highway System.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2013.

While the Syrian regime has reduced the number of foreign fighters bound for Iraq, the regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including pursuing chemical and biological weapons, supporting terrorist organizations, and obstructing the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Assad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and

calls on the Assad regime to stop its violent war and step aside to allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2013.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novtony, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 291. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

H.R. 507. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 588. An act to provide for donor contribution acknowledgments to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 672(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: Mr. Christopher Carney of Dimock, Pennsylvania and General Peter W. Chiarelli of Seattle, Washington.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 291. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 507. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 888. A bill to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.